



## **Sutter's Fort Trappers' Camp Study Guide**

Below are some of the important questions that will be addressed at each station you will visit during your tour through the Sutter's Fort Mobile Living History Trapper's Camp --- listen for the answers to these questions --- the Booshway will ask questions at the wrap-up station.

### **Orientation**

1. Why was the leader of Trapper's Camp called "The Booshway?"
2. Why is the Booshway the highest paid member of the camp?
3. What is "Chinook Jargon?"
4. Why was Chinook Jargon important for communication in trapper camp?
5. Why did John Sutter send trappers and helpers into the wilderness?

### **Trader**

1. Why was it important to trade with the Native Indians?
2. What items are good trades?
3. What items are bad trades?
4. Why would the Trader want to trade something that is addictive?

### **Hunter**

1. Why did the trapper camp need a hunter?
2. What kind of animals did the hunter shoot?
3. How did the hunter travel and carry his supplies?
4. What type of weapon does the hunter use?



### **Camp Keeper**

1. What was the camp keeper's job?
2. How early did the camp keepers have to get up in the morning?
3. What did the camp keepers use for an alarm clock?
4. What types of food could the camp keepers make?
5. What was the worst job the camp keeper had to do?
6. What is a "ship's biscuit" or "hardtack"?

### **Trapper**

1. Why was the trapper the most important member of the camp?
2. What were the two most valuable pelts?
3. For what were the beaver and otter pelts used?
4. What did the trapper use to lure the beaver into a trap?
5. Do we still trap animals for the same reasons Sutter did?

### **Booshway Wrap-up and Cannon Demonstration**

1. What 3 flags were flying at the Trapper's Camp?
2. What military action led to the creation of the California State Flag?
3. Why does the Booshway have the best job?
4. Why did they fire the cannon at the trappers' camp?



## **Answers to Sutters Fort Trappers' Camp Study Guide**

### **Orientation**

1. Booshway, comes from the French word “bourgeois,” which means businessman.
2. The Booshway can read and write and cipher (do arithmetic).
3. Chinook Jargon was a special language created by trapping parties.
4. Trapping camps were made up of people from many different nations and cultures who spoke many different languages. Chinook Jargon gave them a common language with which they could talk to each other.
5. Furs and pelts were valuable and could be used like money or worn as clothing.

### **Trader**

1. The trapping camp needed the permission of the Native Indian People to hunt and use their land. It also created peace and understanding with the Native People through sharing resources.
2. Good trades are items that can be used as money or to make life easier or better and will last a long time – such as metal pots, knives, and spears, or beads, shells, or a mirror.
3. Bad trades are a gun that doesn't have powder or bullets, cards, whiskey, or tobacco that are addictive.
4. By giving away items that are addictive, the trader will only have to bring those addictive items in the future, because that is all the people will desire.



## **Hunter**

1. The hunter shot meat that was eaten in camp. He also got hides that were valuable.
2. The hunter shot deer, elk, water fowl, and other edible game.
3. The hunter rode a horse and used a pack mule – everyone else traveled by canoe or river boat.
4. The hunter used a “black powder flintlock (or cap-lock) musket.”

## **Camp Keeper**

1. The camp keeper cooked and cleaned and took care of the trappers.
2. The camp keepers got up at 4 a.m.
3. The camp keepers drank just enough water to wake up to go to the bathroom at 4 a.m.
4. The camp keepers had meat provided by the hunter, and fresh fruits and vegetables that could be gathered or sent from the Fort, and fresh baked bread when they had flour.
5. Rub the feet of the trappers
6. Hard dried flour and salt that had to be soaked before it could be eaten.

## **Trapper**

1. The trapper was getting the animals that could be used like money.
2. Beaver and river otter
3. The beaver’s fur was made into a felt to make hats. The otter became the decorative trim on Asian robes etc.
4. “Castoreum” or the scent of another beaver was used to lure the beaver into the trap.
5. No, today we can buy waterproof and synthetic decorative clothing.



### **Booshway Wrap-up and Cannon Demonstration**

1. The Fremont Flag, The Bear Flag, and the 28 star American Flag
2. The Bear Flag Revolt led to the creation of the Bear Flag.
3. The Booshway does the least work and gets paid the most because he can read and write and do arithmetic.
4. The cannon was not a weapon. It is called a “signal gun” and it was used to make a loud noise that could be heard at a great distance to call people, especially the hunter, back to camp.